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If the parties agree that the case shall be conducted in English, the judgment will be delivered in English.

In the absence of an agreement as to which language shall be employed, each party may, in the pleadings, use the language which it prefers; the decision of the court will be given in both languages. In this case the court will at the same time determine which of the two texts shall be considered as authoritative.

The court may, at the request of the parties, authorize a language other than French or English to be used.

## ARMENIA, THE POWERS, AND THE UNITED STATES

On November 25 the Council of the League, after receipt of news from Armenia indicating the gravity of the situation, sent out a call to the nations signatory to the treaty, asking some one or more of them to act as mediator between Mustapha Kemal Pasha, the leader of the Turkish Nationalist Party, and the Armenians. In addition, the appended communication was dispatched by cable to President Wilson. It read:

The Assembly of the League of Nations passed on November 22 a resolution couched in the following terms: "The Assembly, anxious to co-operate with the Council in order to put an end within the shortest time possible to the horrors of the Armenian tragedy, has requested the Council to arrive at an understanding with the governments with the view of entrusting a power with the task of taking necessary measures to stop hostilities between the Kemalists and the Armenians."

The Council of the League has, after consideration, decided to transmit this resolution to the governments of all States members of the League and also to the Government of the United States. The object is to find a power which will use its good offices to put an end as speedily as possible to the present terrible tragedy.

The proposal does not involve a repetition of the invitation to accept a mandate for Armenia. The Council does not wish to suggest an assumption of duties which might be unwelcomed, but has felt bound to offer to the United States the opportunity of undertaking this humanitarian task, since the fate of Armenia always has been of special interest to the American people, and the President of the United States has already agreed to delimit the boundaries of that country. As the matter is of great urgency, the Council ventures to ask for a reply with the shortest possible delay.

### PRESIDENT WILSON'S GUARDED REPLY

President Wilson, on November 30, in a guarded communication, making clear the limitations under which he must act, accepted the post of mediator. He said:

*President of the Council of the League of Nations, Geneva, Switzerland:*

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your cabled message, setting forth the resolution adopted by the Assembly of the League of Nations, requesting the Council of the League to arrive at an understanding with the governments with a view to entrusting a power with the task of taking the necessary measures to stop the hostilities in Armenia.

You offer to the United States the opportunity of undertaking the humanitarian task of using its good offices to end the present tragedy being enacted in Armenia, and you assure me that your proposal involves no repetition of the invitation to accept a mandate for Armenia.

While the invitation to accept a mandate for Armenia has been rejected by the Senate of the United States, this country has repeatedly declared its solicitude for the fate and welfare of the Armenian people, in a manner and to an ex-

tent that justifies you in saying that the fate of Armenia has always been of special interest to the American people.

### Personal Mediation Offered

I am without authorization to offer or employ the military forces of the United States in any project for the relief of Armenia, and any material contributions would require the authorization of the Congress which is now in session and whose action I could not forecast. I am willing, however, upon assurances of the moral and diplomatic support of the principal powers, and in a spirit of sympathetic response to the request of the Council of the League of Nations, to use my good offices and to proffer my personal mediation through a representative whom I may designate, to end the hostilities now being waged against the Armenian people and to bring peace and accord to the contending parties, relying upon the Council of the League of Nations to suggest to me the avenues through which my proffer should be conveyed and the parties to whom it should be addressed.

WOODROW WILSON.

### AMERICAN LOAN PROPOSED

President Wilson, in his message to Congress, December 7, said:

In response to what I believe to be the impulse of sympathy and opinion throughout the United States, I earnestly suggest that the Congress authorize the Treasury of the United States to make to the struggling government of Armenia such a loan as was made to several of the allied governments during the war; and I would also suggest that it would be desirable to provide in the legislation itself that the expenditure of the money thus loaned should be under the supervision of a commission, or at least a commissioner, from the United States, in order that revolutionary tendencies within Armenia itself might not be afforded by the loan a further tempting opportunity.

### ARMENIA'S HOME TROUBLES

Prior to sending his reply the President had forwarded to the League officials his report as their agent in reporting on suitable boundaries for Armenia that should receive the League's protection. But while the League's officials were considering ways and means of giving effect to the mediating enterprise on terms laid by President Wilson, the Turkish Nationalists and the Armenians were facing a proposition laid down in the following terms:

First. Armenia shall renounce its benefits under the Sevres Treaty.

Second. Armenia shall adopt a friendly policy toward Turkey.

Third. Turks living within the Republic of Armenia shall receive full protection.

Moreover, the Armenians had to consider the intimate relations existing between the Turkish Nationalists and the Russian Government, broadly set forth in the following platform of co-operative action in the Near East:

1. Assurance on the territorial integrity of Turkey and restoration of Turkish administration in regions entirely inhabited by Turks.

2. Turkish control to be established in the new States of Arabia and Syria.

3. Facilities to be accorded Russian delegates with a view to the development of communism in Turkey.

4. Russia and Turkey agree to "liberate Moslem countries, such as India, Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, and Tunisia from foreign yoke and grant them independence."

5. Russia recognizes the independence of the Moslem States in her territory and guarantees their integrity.

6. Russia agrees to grant financial and material aid to Turkey.

7. Russia agrees to dispatch two army corps, followed by more if necessary.

8. Hostilities may be continued against the Entente without previous reference to the national councils of both countries.

On December 3 it was announced that the Armenian Republic had agreed to become friendly in its relations with Russia, and that the latter power, in consequence, had called off the attacks of the Turkish Nationalists and of its own forces, and that Armenia was "at peace."

Naturally, this "accomplished fact" disconcerted the major powers of the West; it made of none effect the negotiations of the League for "mediation" and at once made perilous the remedial labors of the Near East Relief Fund representatives, who are under the ban of the Russian Government.

## THE MILITARY, NAVAL, AND AIR COMMISSION

Wishing to have the United States represented in a "consultative" capacity on the League's permanent military, naval, and air commission, the President of the Council of the League, late in November, cabled to Washington the following communication:

The Council of the League of Nations, acting on a unanimous recommendation of the permanent military, naval, and air commission of the League, passed at its meeting in Geneva on November 25, invites the Government of the United States to name representatives to sit on that commission in a consultative capacity during the study by the commission of the question of the reduction of armaments—a study which the Council has requested the commission to undertake forthwith.

The permanent advisory commission was constituted by the Council of the League at its meeting in Rome last May, and held its first session at San Sebastian in August. The commission is at present composed of military, naval, and aerial officers of States represented on the Council of the League. Its decisions are purely advisory and not in any sense binding, but they represent the common technical judgment of the experts of many countries.

It would of course be perfectly understood that the presence of the representatives of the United States would in no way commit the American Government to whatever opinions may be finally put forward in the report of the commission. Nor, indeed, can that report itself be more than a basis for the consideration by the members of the League of the measures of reductions in armaments which united action may enable them to achieve. Nevertheless, just as in the case of the financial conference at Brussels, the presence of an American representative, whose function was only that of giving and receiving information, was an important factor in the success of the work of the conference, so it cannot be doubted that the general consideration of the subject of the reduction of armaments will be greatly facilitated if the Government of the United States can see its way to be represented in a similar manner at the meetings of the permanent advisory commission.

The problem is one to which public opinion in all countries attaches the highest importance.

It is unnecessary to point out that the reduction of armaments is essential for the well-being of the world, and that unless some measures of relief can be found by international co-operation for the excessive taxation due to armaments, the general economic situation must become increasingly worse.

The Council in extending this invitation cannot but hope that the Government of the United States, particularly in view of the attitude of America toward the question of the competition in armaments, will not refuse to associate itself

with the governments of the members of the League in beginning the preliminary work necessary for ultimate success and to lend to the present effort an assistance which can in no way encroach upon its own perfect liberty of action.

## MEXICO AND THE UNITED STATES

At midnight, November 30, General Alvaro Obregon took the oath of office and became President of the Republic of Mexico, the fourth official of that rank to assume such responsibilities in days of peace and with no revolt under way anywhere within the State. As is the custom, he gave no inaugural message, either on taking the oath or in meeting the national legislature the next day.

But the day prior to his inauguration he sent forth a statement, which we append, that may be fairly deemed his working policy as an executive in whom there is more confidence, both within and without the Republic, than has been given to any President for many years past. General Obregon (which, by the way, is Mexican for "O'Brien") said in this statement:

The provisional government under President de la Huerta did not request such membership, and it is the intention of this government to continue this policy of aloofness, as Mexico in making overtures for membership in the League would engage in a humiliating act, entirely inconsistent with its traditional national pride.

The great problem I face as the next Mexican executive is that of general reconstruction. I have reflected my attitude toward various problems in a series of projects which I have already submitted to Congress for consideration. Of first interest to Americans, of course, is the oil problem, and in this connection I might say that articles 14 and 27 will not be abrogated. But I am sure that within a short time a commission will be appointed to regulate the application of these articles. I do not intend to make any recommendations to Congress regarding petroleum matters beyond urging that the commission be established, and that all parties concerned be given fair and just treatment. I feel certain that this problem ultimately will be settled to the satisfaction of all concerned.

The most significant results accomplished by the Mexican Government which retired last night undoubtedly was the pacification of the Republic, which is a sequence to the revolutionary movement of last summer. The institution of economical methods in public administration, which has resulted in the equalization of the national budget and an approach to financial stability, is another significant result.

### Problem of Labor

One of Mexico's greatest problems at present is that of labor. I am positive that radicalism here is not so widespread that it constitutes a menace to the peace of Mexico. However, I do recognize that the workers have a right to fight for the betterment of their conditions, and my government will lend all possible aid to secure such betterment, if the workers act within the law and order. I recently submitted a system of pensions and insurance policies for employees who have grown old in service or who have become disabled as a result of their work. Certain wage increases are also proposed by the law.

The constitution of 1917 delivers too much power to the chief executive without providing sufficient responsibilities, and it was the exercise of these almost tyrannical powers by Carranza that led to the revolution against him. The proposed law would make the President subject to trial if he in any way restrained the liberties of voters or attempted to prejudice elections, either federal or state; if he exerted pressure upon Congress or the Supreme Court to influence their action; if he attacked the sovereignty of any State; if he were a party to the formal administration of public funds or concluded treaties with foreign powers without the consent of Congress. The various members of the cabinet